

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action are discussed below under similar headings.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings after determining that the claimed video interface and host video interface were not shown in the figures. The claims have been amended to remove all references to "KVM" from the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahern et al. (EP 1 075 111) in view of King et al. (US 2003/0131127).

As an initial matter, the Examiner appears to have interpreted the phrase "non-keyboard, non-mouse USB interface" to mean an interface that is either a non-keyboard interface or a non-mouse interface. To avoid any confusion, all instances of that phrase have been amended to read "non-keyboard and non-mouse interface." It is intended that the interface be neither a keyboard interface nor a mouse interface.

Applicant respectfully reiterates to the Examiner that King does not disclose a non-keyboard, non-mouse USB interface. As Examiner correctly notes, Ahern fails to disclose a peripheral switch comprising at least one USB peripheral interface where the master controller is configured to switch at least one of the USB peripheral interfaces among the host interfaces. But according to the Examiner:

King discloses a non-keyboard or a non-mouse USB peripheral interface: **a video USB peripheral interface (USB port 213)**, as King discloses in paragraph 0023, is a non-keyboard or a non-mouse.

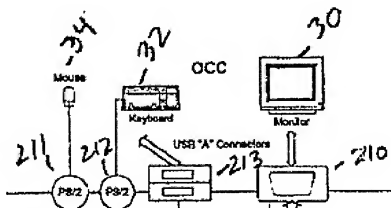
(emphasis added). The Examiner also again cited paragraph 0023 of King, which reads:

An OCC 22 includes a keyboard 32, monitor 30 and mouse device 34. As used herein, the term "mouse" refers to any cursor control device. The **OCC keyboard 32 and mouse 34 devices may be PS/2 devices or USB devices or a combination of both.** For example, it is possible to

simultaneously attach both a PS/2 keyboard and a USB mouse. Because the USB protocol allows multiple devices to be attached to a single USB port by using a commercially available device known as a USB hub, multiple **PS/2 devices and USB devices** may be attached to a KVM unit 12.

(emphasis added).

Figure 2 of King clearly shows a video port 210, a PS/2 mouse port 211, a PS/2 keyboard port 212 and a USB keyboard and mouse port 213. The relevant portion of Figure 2 of King is provided below for the Examiner's convenience:



Contrary to the position taken by the Examiner, the USB port 213 is not a video port. It is described and illustrated solely as a USB keyboard and USB mouse device port. Indeed, the arrow pointing from port 213 to the keyboard and mouse 32 and 34 removes any doubt that the USB port is designed for or even capable of any other use. There is no indication that the "USB devices" described in King can be anything other than USB keyboard and USB mouse devices.

As further evidence that King discloses only keyboard and mouse USB peripherals, King explains that it is preferable for the KVM unit 12 to receive power from the host computer 71 so that it can "provide the necessary signals emulating the presence of an attached peripheral device to the host computer 71 even when the KVM unit 12 is turned off." Paragraph 0031. To provide emulation signals to the host computer 71, it is necessary to know the characteristics of the device being emulated. In other words, emulation can only occur when the KVM unit is configured for connection with specific type of devices, which in King are a keyboard and a mouse. One of skill in the art of peripheral switches would be familiar with the process of

emulating keyboard and mouse devices to a host. There is no disclosure, however, of how a non-keyboard and non-mouse USB device could be emulated to the host computer 71 by the KVM unit 12. Indeed, there is no disclosure anywhere in King of the use of the KVM unit with any USB device other than a keyboard and mouse.

As amended, all of the claims of the present application include at least one non-keyboard and non-mouse USB peripheral interface. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a peripheral switch for switching keyboard and mouse interfaces as well as at least one non-keyboard and non-mouse USB peripheral interface, between host interfaces.

Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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